

CODIB-D-65
23 September 1960

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD
COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: Committee on Documentation

SUBJECT: Summary of SAC 438L Technical Conference

REFERENCE: CODIB-M-20, 3 February 1960, para. 4 (Status Report
on Air Force Project 438L)

25X1 1. Attached for the Committee's information is a copy of a summary
of the 438L Technical Conference held at SAC Headquarters, Offutt AFB,
7-8 September 1960 to which [] referred at the last meeting
(CODIB-M-25, para. 5).

2. You will note in the second to the last paragraph the statement
of need for "the imposing of discipline on the community to achieve a
major improvement in the formatting of inputs".

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PAUL A. BOREL
Chairman

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SUMMARY OF 438L TECHNICAL CONFERENCE
held at Hq SAC, Offutt AFB, Nebr
7, 8 September 1960

The attached agenda was followed closely with presentations by the personnel indicated below.

General Smith, Director of Intelligence of SAC, opened the conference with a strong comment that SAC is completely behind the experiment and wants to get an operational capability as rapidly as possible. This requirement is more urgent now that General Power has been assigned the additional duty of Director, Joint Strategic Target Planning Agency.

As background, the Test Director presented a short summary of the original concept of the system and its implementation, the scope of the SAC subsystem, and the presently defined objectives and limitations of the experiment.

Lt Colonel Vandiver, an analyst from the SAC warning center, presented a detailed summary of the work being accomplished in the center and the kinds of inputs which they utilize.

Following the mid-morning break, Mr. Groce [] discussed the system concept, the kinds of work being done and general flow diagrams for the various types of inputs. Mr. Lamontagne summarized briefly the mathematical work being done to arrange a program to utilize the Fisher discriminate function in statistical analysis of data.

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During Mr. Hickey's presentation on the reports and files being developed the applicability of certain Navy files was discussed. The Navy representative is preparing a list of reports which would probably be more applicable.

In the discussion of detailed methods for inserting data into the files the inability to mix collateral with other kinds of input data was brought out. This caused a lively exchange of ideas and comments on directives under which the experiment is operating. The need for a discipline within the intelligence community to insure the formatting of tabular reports in such a way that they are immediately acceptable to the machine was emphasized.

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The results of the experiment are expected to provide considerable impetus to accomplishing this end by defining specific ways in which the reports can be changed to achieve more rapid input.

After the afternoon break, Lt Colonel Vandiver and Mr. Groce covered the kinds of outputs desired from the experiment and the present and projected (by 31 Dec 60) capabilities of the system to provide these answers.

By arrangement with the Warning Center the conferees were given a rerun of the daily intelligence briefing.

Mr. Groce then continued the presentation by discussing the areas which the contractor felt should be added to the present experiment as expanded or follow-on efforts. These included display, equipment improvements, human factors, interface and indexing. During this period an extended discussion took place regarding methods of indexing or coding documents for file and retrieval. The use of Uniterms or descriptors and/or a hierarchical code and the possibility of developing a standard code which can be applied to all types of documents--operational as well as intelligence--were discussed.

Lt Colonel Siemon concluded the formal portion of the briefings by presenting what SAC wants for an operational subsystem--display, additional storage, interface, off-line equipment, etc.

Following a tour of the computer area and lunch, the group split into two parts. One portion discussed Mr. Lamontagne's mathematical model work and the other portion had a session on indexing of documents. No decisions or guidance was forthcoming from either group.

In summary, Colonel Morneau emphasized the necessity for building files which can be manipulated, the need for expansion and continued work on the total system with coordination and cooperation of all agencies and "L" systems. Of long term importance is the imposing of discipline on the community to achieve a major improvement in the formatting of inputs.

A revised list of attendees is attached.

/s/
JOHN M. HERNDON
Colonel, USAF
438L Test Director

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1. Agenda
2. Revised List of Attendees

Department of Defense

Mr. L. R. Dailey, DDR&E

JCS

LCDR J. W. Enyart

NSA

State Department

Mr. J. W. Neubert

CIA

FBI

Mr. T. C. Haaser

Hq USAF

Lt.Col. L. W. Cowan, AFDSO

Army

Col C. F. Nelson, ACSI-A
Mr. H. E. Koch, ACSI-A
Mr. A. G. Favret, ACSI-A

Navy

Capt D. C. Higgins, ONI
Capt W. E. Kuntz, ONR
Capt E. C. Smith
LCDR R. W. Bates, ONI
LCDR A. K. Bennett, OPNAV
Dr. M. H. Hellner, ONI
Dr. R. M. Davis, DTMB

SAC

B/Gen R. N. Smith, D/I
Col D. H. Ainsworth, 544th RTG
Col J. B. Greene, DIE
Col L. L. Shaw, DIN
Col W. B. Taylor, DIE
LtCol F. D. Mahl, DIT
LtCol H. M. Reynolds, DIN
LtCol G. K. Shively, 544th RTG
LtCol A. F. Siemon, DINZ
LtCol R. S. Vandiver, DIEW
Maj L. Alderman, DINZ
Maj D. Anderson Jr., DIM
Maj K. R. Johnson, 544th RTG
Maj W. R. Walkup, DIXSP
Maj C. K. Wilcox, 544th RTG
Lt R. E. Obremski, 544th RTG

AFCIN

Mr. J. H. Toler
Mr. S. S. Rockwell
LtCol A. D. Gaston
Mr. W. E. Eiselstein

Hq ARDC

Lt. Col W. H. Brauer
Capt R. H. Spencer

AFCCDD

Col W. H. Congdon
Col C. H. Morneau
Mr. D. L. Radcliffe
Col J. M. Herndon
Capt R. Newsome Jr.

RADC

Lt. B. Watkins
Mr. J. B. McLean

NORAD

Lt. Col A. G. Lindsay
Maj J. C. Manley
Maj J. L. Feser

USAFSS

Capt J. O. Bush